CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) (a) and (b) Steps are being taken to work out a plan of action for the celebration of the International Literacy Year (ILY) in 1990. For this purpose a National Coordination Committee on International Literacy Year has been constituted. The Committee has already met once on 20th July, 1988.

Whole salers of NCERT books

4156. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NCERT issues its books to a few whole sale dealers only and not to the retail book sellers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for creating such monopoly and what steps have been taken to ensure that the wholesale dealers abide by the prescribed conditions; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to encourage educated unemployed youngsters to take up the retail sale of NCERT books by issuing the same to them directly, without bring wholesale dealers into the picture in the form of middlemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) NCERT sells its publications in the Union Territory of Delhi through 14 Wholesale Distribution agents. The sale in the rest of the country is handled by eight Sales Emporia of the Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting situated at New Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Patna, Lucknow, Hyderabad and Trivandrum. The Wholesale Distributors as well as the Publication Division sell these publications through retailers; sale and distribution of books through Wholesalers is an established practice in the book trade.

(c) No, Sir.

Vacant posts of senior administrative officer in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

4157. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of post of Senior Administrative Officers, Kendriya Vidalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, lying vacant at present;

(b) whether these are likely to be filled up, by departmental promotion or by direct recruitment; and

(c) if so, by when it is propose to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Nil.

(a) and (c) Do not arise.

Literacy rate in the country

4158. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present literacy rate in the country for the population as a whole, and separately for males and females;

(b) whether the female literacy rate is still very low, particularly in some States even after 40 years after independence; and

(c) what steps are being taken or proposed to be taken to reduce female illiteracy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) & (b) A Statement showing the All India and State-wise literacy rate for male and female as per the 1981 Census is attached (*See* below).

(c) The following steps have been taken for improving the female literacy position in the country:

(i) Mobilisation of women adult learners for the Adult Education Centres in large number;